

*A³
cont*

25. (Amended) The invention of claim 22 further comprising a clamp, wherein at least one of said first and second splined inner-portions of said seal is fitted to at least one of said splined portions of said respective first and second members of said shaft with the clamp

Please add the following new claim:

A4 Sub B726. (New) The invention of claim 1 wherein said first member is adapted to couple with a transmission of the vehicle, and said second member is adapted to couple with a differential of the vehicle.

REMARKS

The Applicants have attached a marked-up version of the amended specification and claims as Appendix A. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX A

In the Specification

Please amend the third paragraph on page 5, which starts with "The second member 12," as follows:

The second member 12 is adapted to selectively, movably, and telescopically penetrate the first member 16. The splined portions 18, 14 of the first and second members 16, 12 cooperatively intermesh in the usual and known manner. Particularly, the first member 16 is [movably] coupled, by the use of a conventional flange 20, to a conventional transmission 21, while the second member 12 is [movably] coupled, by the use of a conventional flange 22, to a conventional differential 23. The torque[, supplied by the transmission 21] is communicated to the first member 16 and then, by use of the intermeshed splined portions 18, 14 of the first and second members 16, 12, is communicated to the second member 12 [and to the differential 23]. The cooperating splined portions 18, 14 allow the second member 12 to dynamically move along the longitudinal axis of symmetry 32 of the driveshaft 10 in response to changes in the distance between the transmission 21 and the differential 23, in a known manner.

In The Claims:

1. (Amended) [A seal for a driveshaft, wherein said driveshaft comprises] A combination of a seal and a shaft for communicating torque in a vehicle, comprising:
a shaft including first and second members each having splined portions, said second member being telescopically resident within said first member, said splined portion of said first member cooperating with said splined portion of said second

member thereby allowing said first and second members to cooperatively form the [driveshaft, said seal comprising:] shaft; and

a seal including a first splined inner-portion having a first diameter[;]
and a second splined inner-portion having a second diameter, wherein said first diameter
of said first splined inner-portion of said seal is larger than said second diameter of
said second splined inner-portion of said seal, at least a part of the splined portion of
said first member is resident within said first splined inner-portion of said seal, and at
least a part of the splined portion of said second member is telescopically resident
within said second splined inner-portion of said seal.

22. (Amended) A method of attaching a seal to a [driveshaft] shaft comprising:
providing a [driveshaft] shaft comprising first and second members each
having splined portions, said second member being telescopically resident within
said first member, said splined portion of said first member cooperating with said
splined portion of said second member thereby allowing said first and second
members to cooperatively form the [driveshaft] shaft;

providing a seal comprising a first splined-inner portion having a first
diameter, and a second splined-inner portion having a second diameter, wherein
said first diameter of said first splined inner-portion is larger than said second
diameter of said second splined inner-portion;

fitting the first splined inner-portion of said seal around at least a part of the
splined portion of said first member; and

fitting the second splined inner-portion of said seal around at least a part of
the splined portion of said second member.

23. (Amended) The invention of claim 22 wherein said first and second splined inner-portions of said seal are fit to said respective splined portions of said first and second members of said [driveshaft] shaft utilizing initial preload force.

24. (Amended) The invention of claim 22 further comprising a spring within at least one of said first and second splined inner-portions of said seal, said spring providing preload force against at least one of said respective splined portions of said first and second members of said [driveshaft] shaft.

25. (Amended) The invention of claim 22 further comprising a clamp, wherein at least one of said first and second splined inner-portions of said seal is fitted to at least one of said splined portions of said respective first and second members of said [driveshaft] shaft with the clamp.